

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 188010

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI AMMAN JIDDA
KUWAIT LONDON TEHRAN FROM SANAA SEPT 21

QUOTE

S E C R E T SANAA 1867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, US, TC, SA

SUBJ: EMERGENCY ARMS FOR YAR

REF: (A) SANAA 1595, (B) SANAA 1669, (C) STATE 169859,
(D) SANAA 1833, (E) ABU DHABI 1298, (F) JIDDA 3709

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF FOR ISA AND DSAA; USCINCEUR AND DEPT OF ARMY

1. SUMMARY: YARG CONCURS IN US PROPOSAL FOR SPLIT
AIR/SEA SHIPMENT BUT STRONGLY APPEALS FOR SOME 106MM
RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 81MM MORTARS NOW RPT NOW.
YARG WILL PICK UP THE DIPLOMATIC BALL WITH ABU DHABI ON
FINANCING. ACTIONS REQUESTED: (A) RE-EXAMINATION OF
106MM AVAILABILITY LOOKING TOWARD INCLUSION AT LEAST 15
SECRET

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UNITS WITH 1,000-1,500 ROUNDS AMMO IN SPECIAL
ASSIGNMENT AIRLIFT MISSION CARRYING OTHER ITEMS TO BE
AIRLIFTED TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONWARD AIR TRANSPORT TO
YAR; (B) DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY JIDDA APPROACH SAG RE

RELEASE TO YAR OF 10 81MM MORTARS AND APPROPRIATE AMMO;
(C) FOLLOWING DECISIONS ON (A) AND (B), POUCH LETTER OF
OFFER WITH INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST; (D) INFORM ABU DHABI
OF FINAL GLOBAL COST.

2. ACTING FONMIN ASNAG INFORMED ME SEPTEMBER 20 THAT
MILITARY LEADERSHIP HAD CONCURRED IN US PROPOSAL (REFTEL
C) FOR SPLIT AIR/SEA TRANSPORT OF ARMS TO BE SENT TO
SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO YEMEN. ASNAG SAID MILITARY
MOST CONCERNED, HOWEVER, RE PROSPECTIVE DELAY IN DELIVERY OF 106MM
RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 81MM MORTARS, WHICH AMONG MOST
CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS (AS DATT HAS ALSO NOTED).
IN VIEW SMALL QUANTITIES INVOLVED (30 AND 10 RESPECTIVELY,
MILITARY FOUND IT DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND HOW USG
CANNOT LOCATE AT LEAST SOME UNITS TO BE INCLUDED IN
INITIAL AIRLIFT. THEY STRONGLY APPEAL FOR RECONSIDERATION.

3. ASNAG SAID YARG AMBASSADOR TO UAE, QUBATI, BRIEFED ON
FOREGOING AND WILL RETURN TO ABU DHABI EARLY NEXT WEEK
TO PICK UP THE BALL ON DISCUSSIONS WITH ADG,
COORDINATING WITH US EMBASSY. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL TAKE
CARE OF POINT MADE PARA 4 REF (E).

4. COMMENT: YARG DECISION SHOULD ENABLE US WRAP THIS
UP FAIRLY QUICKLY. AS IMMEDIATE STEP, URGE THAT STATE
AND DOD RE-EXAMINE 106 AVAILABILITY. OUR HOPE WOULD
BE THAT AT LEAST 15 UNITS AND 1,000-1,500 ROUNDS AMMO
COULD BE LOCATED FOR INCLUSION IN INITIAL AIRLIFT EVEN
IF THIS REQUIRES DIVERSION FROM US SERVICES. WE WOULD
ALSO HOPE THAT DELIVERY TIME ON REMAINING 15 106S WHICH
HAVE BEEN REQUESTED COULD BE SHORTENED BY WITHDRAWAL
FROM US STOCKS AND THAT THESE, WITH BALANCE OF AMMO,
BE SHIPPED BY SEA WITH REST OF YARG ORDER.

5. RE 10 81MM MORTARS, RECOMMEND DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY
JIDDA APPROACH SAG PURSUANT PARA 5 REF (C) AND REF (F).

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6. WHEN THE ANSWERS ARE IN ON PARAS 4 AND 5, REQUEST
WE BE POUCHED SOONEST LETTER OF OFFER AND NEGOTIATING
INSTRUCTIONS. WHEN THESE RECEIVED, WE HOPE COL.
FIFER WILL BE ABLE VISIT SANAA TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGO-
TIATION.

7. YAR'S ACCEPTANCE OF US SUGGESTION ON SOME SEA
SHIPMENT WILL REDUCE GLOBAL COST FIGURE GIVEN ADG.
AIRLIFT OF SOME 106S AND AMMO, AS RECOMMENDED ABOVE AND
IF FEASIBLE, WILL PUSH COST BACK UP. WHEN FINAL
FIGURE KNOWN IT WILL, OF COURSE, NEED TO BE GIVEN TO
BOTH ADG AND YARG.

8. CONCUR WASHINGTON VIEW RE PREFERABILITY OF SAAM
OVER CHANNEL AIR. THIS IS IN PART A POLITICAL EXERCISE
IN PSYCHOLOGICAL REASSURANCE. INTERMITTANT ARRIVALS VIA
CHANNEL AIR WOULD REDUCE IMPACT.

9. FOR JIDDA: OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 15 106S AND
1,000-1,500 ROUNDS AMMO FOR AIRLIFT NOW IS CIVI-
LIAN EVALUATION BLENDING WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE YARG
NEEDS AND WHAT WE JUDGE USG SHOULD DO TO APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO
THOSE NEEDS. DATT MAY WISH COMMENT.
CRAWFORD
UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

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